

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): An artificial shingle for mounting on a roof, the artificial shingle comprising:

an elongated body constructed from an artificial material, the elongated body including -

a top surface having an upper top overlap portion and a lower top exposure portion, and

a bottom surface having an upper bottom exposure portion and a lower bottom overlap portion, wherein the lower top exposure portion and the upper bottom exposure portion each present a relief pattern substantially resembling a natural material, the bottom surface including -

a midline groove of reduced thickness extending the length of the elongated body to facilitate bending the artificial shingle.

Claim 2 (original): The artificial shingle as set forth in claim 1, wherein the elongated body is approximately between 12inches and 24inches in length, and approximately between 4inches and 18inches in width.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The artificial shingle as set forth in claim 1, wherein the lower top exposure portion extends over approximately between ~~0.50%~~ 50% and ~~0.75%~~ 75% of the top surface, and the upper bottom exposure portion extends over approximately between ~~0.50%~~ 50% and ~~0.75%~~ 75% of the bottom surface.

Claim 4 (original): The artificial shingle as set forth in claim 1, wherein the elongated body further includes an upper end and a lower end, and the lower end is thicker than the upper end.

Claim 5 (original): The artificial shingle as set forth in claim 4, wherein the lower end is approximately between 0.25inches and 0.75inches in thickness.

Claim 6 (original): The artificial shingle as set forth in claim 1, wherein the elongated body further includes a side and at least one spacer projection extending sidewardly therefrom.

Claim 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (original): The artificial shingle as set forth in claim 1, further including a portion of reduced thickness located at the lower portion of the bottom surface.

Claim 9 (original): The artificial shingle as set forth in claim 8, wherein the portion of reduced thickness is provided with corrugations to increase strength and stiffness.

Claim 10 (original): Three instances of the artificial shingle of claim 1 joined to form a unit, wherein the three instances are joined by two cuttable connectors, and each of the three instances presents a different width.

Claim 11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (currently amended): An artificial shingle for mounting on a roof, the artificial shingle comprising:

an elongated body and constructed from an artificial material, the elongated body including -

a top surface having an upper top overlap portion and a lower top exposure portion, wherein the lower top exposure portion extends over at least approximately ~~0.50%~~ 50% and ~~0.75%~~ 75% of the top surface, and

a bottom surface having an upper bottom exposure portion and a lower bottom overlap portion, wherein the upper bottom exposure portion extends over ~~at least approximately between 0.50% and 0.75%~~ 50% and 75% of the bottom surface, and wherein the lower top exposure portion and the upper bottom exposure portion each present a relief pattern substantially resembling a natural material, the bottom surface including -

a midline groove of reduced thickness extending the length of the elongated body to facilitate bending the artificial shingle, and

a cuttable end tab located at a bottom end of the midline groove, wherein the cuttable end tab can be cut as needed to facilitate folding the artificial shingle but otherwise conceals the presence of the midline groove when the artificial shingle is mounted to the roof.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An artificial shingle for mounting on a roof, the artificial shingle comprising:

an elongated body and constructed from an artificial material, the elongated body including -

a top surface having an upper top overlap portion and a lower top exposure portion, ~~wherein the lower top exposure portion extends over at least approximately 0.50% and 0.75% of the top surface, and~~

a bottom surface having an upper bottom exposure portion and a lower bottom overlap portion, ~~wherein the upper bottom exposure portion extends over at least approximately between 0.50% and 0.75% of the bottom surface, and wherein the lower top exposure portion and the upper bottom exposure portion each present a relief pattern substantially resembling a natural material, the bottom surface including -~~

a portion of reduced thickness located at the lower bottom overlap portion, and

a plurality of corrugations within the portion of reduced thickness to increase stiffness and strength ~~and thickness.~~